

**REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION BY THE INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

1453/US/2

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is described and claimed

in patent number 6,422,288, granted 23 July 2002, and for which a

reissue patent is sought on the invention VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as reissue application number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended \_\_\_\_\_  
(If applicable)

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I verily believe the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid, for the reasons described below. (Check all boxes that apply.)

☐ by reason of a defective specification or drawing.

☒ by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had the right to claim in the patent.

☐ by reason of other errors.

At least one error upon which reissue is based is described below. If the reissue is a broadening reissue, such must be stated with an explanation as to the nature of the broadening:

Applicant failed to cover aspects of its "variable tilting" which were specifically disclosed but never specifically claimed. The original claims, as well as new claims 24-34 have a variable tilting feature that operates in generally the same way. However, the "engaging means" of claims 24-34 do not reference guiding loops on the ladder cord as found in claims 1-23. Rather, the guiding function of the loops on the ladder cord is incorporated in the engaging collar of new claims 24-34.

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## (REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION BY THE INVENTOR, page 2)

Docket Number (Optional)

1453/US/2

All errors corrected in this reissue application arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant. As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Name(s)

Registration Number

All attorneys and agents associated with USPTO Customer No. 20686

Correspondence Address: Direct all communications about the application to:



Customer Number

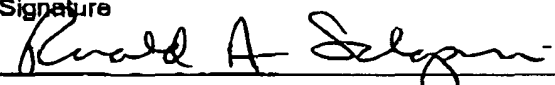
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Type Customer Number here



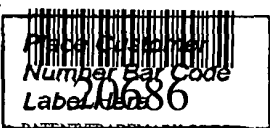
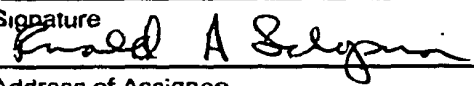
<input type="checkbox"/>	Firm or Individual Name				
Address					
Address					
City		State		Zip	
Country					
Telephone		Fax			
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine and imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this declaration is directed.					
Full name of sole or first inventor (given name, family name) Nicolaas Dekker					
Inventor's signature				Date	
Residence Bergschenhoek, The Netherlands				Citizenship NL	
Mailing Address Van Goghlaan 43, 2661SC Bergschenhoek, The Netherlands					
Full name of second joint inventor (given name, family name) Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten					
Inventor's signature				Date	
Residence Den Haag, The Netherlands				Citizenship NL	
Mailing Address Muurbloemweg 77, 2555 NC Den Haag, The Netherlands					
Full name of third joint inventor (given name, family name)					
Inventor's signature				Date	
Residence				Citizenship	
Mailing Address					
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional joint inventors are named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.					

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>REISSUE APPLICATION: CONSENT OF ASSIGNEE; STATEMENT OF NON-ASSIGNMENT</b>		Docket Number (Optional) 1453/US/2
This is part of the application for a reissue patent based on the original patent identified below.		
Name of Patentee(s) <u>Nicolaas Dekker and Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten</u>		
Patent Number <u>6,422,288</u>	Date Patent Issued <u>23 July 2002</u>	
Title of <u>VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING</u>		
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filed herein is a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b). (Form PTO/SB/96)</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Ownership of the patent is in the inventor(s), and no assignment of the patent is in effect.</p> <p>One of boxes 1 or 2 above must be checked. If multiple assignees, complete this form for each assignee. If box 2 is checked, skip the next entry and go directly to "Name of Assignee".</p> <p>The written consent of all assignees and inventors owning an undivided interest in the original patent is included in this application for reissue.</p>		
The assignee(s) owning an undivided interest in said original patent is/are <u>Hunter Douglas Industries B.V.</u> , and the assignee(s) consents to the accompanying application for reissue.		
Name of assignee/inventor (if not assigned) <u>HUNTER DOUGLAS INDUSTRIES B.V.</u>		
Signature 	Date <u>18</u> July 2003	
Typed or printed name and title of person signing for assignee (if assigned)  <u>Ronald A. Schapira, Director</u>		

Burden Hour Statement. This form is estimated to take 0.1 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

<b>REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION BY THE ASSIGNEE</b>		Docket Number (optional) 1453/US/2
<p>I hereby declare that:</p> <p>My residence, mailing address and citizenship are stated below.</p> <p>I am authorized to act on behalf of the following assignee: <u>Hunter Douglas Industries B.V.</u></p> <p>and the title of my position with said assignee is: <u>Director</u></p> <p>The entire title to the patent identified below is vested in said assignee.</p>		
Inventor <b>Nicolaas Dekker</b>	Citizenship <b>NL</b>	
Residence/Mailing Address <b>Van Goghlaan 43, 2661SC Bergschenhoek, The Netherlands</b>		
Inventor <b>Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten</b>	Citizenship <b>NL</b>	
Residence/Mailing Address <b>Muurbloemweg 77, 2555 NC Den Haag, The Netherlands</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Inventors are named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.		
Patent <b>6,422,288</b>	Date of Patent Issued <b>23 July 2002</b>	
Title of Invention <b>VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING</b>		
<p>I believe said inventor(s) to be the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is described and claimed in said patent, for which a reissue patent is sought on the invention entitled:</p> <p><b>VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING</b></p> <p>the specification of which</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> was filed on _____ as reissue application number _____</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">and was amended on _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; padding-left: 100px;">(If applicable)</p> <p>I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.</p> <p>I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.</p> <p>I verily believe the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid, for the reasons described below. (Check all boxes that apply.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> by reason of a defective specification or drawing.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had the right to claim in the patent.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> by reason of other errors.</p>		

<b>REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION BY THE ASSIGNEE</b>		Dock # Number (Optional) 1453/US/2			
<p>At least one error upon which reissue is based is described as follows:          Applicant failed to cover aspects of its "variable tilting" which were specifically disclosed but never specifically claimed. The original claims, as well as new claims 24-34 have a variable tilting feature that operates in generally the same way. However, the "engaging means" of claims 24-34 do not reference guiding loops on the ladder cord as found in claims 1-23. Rather, the guiding function of the loops on the ladder cord is incorporated in the engaging collar of new claims 24-34.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[Attach additional sheets, if needed.]</p> <p>All errors corrected in this reissue application arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant.</p>					
<p>I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Name(s)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Registration Number</td> </tr> </table>				Name(s)	Registration Number
Name(s)	Registration Number				
ALL ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS ASSOCIATED WITH USPTO CUSTOMER NO. 20686					
<p>Correspondence Address: Direct all communications about the application to:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number           </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-right: 20px;">             20686           </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;">  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">Type Customer Number Here</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <div style="display: flex;"> <div style="width: 15%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name         </div> <div style="width: 85%;"></div> </div>					
Address					
Address					
City	State	Zip			
Country					
Telephone		Fax			
<p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine and imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this declaration is directed.</p>					
Full name of person signing (given name, family name) Ronald A. Schapira					
Signature 		Date 18 July 2003			
Address of Assignee 2 Pickstraat, P.O. Box 5072, 3008 AB Rotterdam, The Netherlands					

Express Mail Label No. EV 156 969 986 US  
Attorney Docket No. 1453/US/2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Reissue Application of U.S. Patent No. 6,422,288	Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned
Inventors: Nicolaas Dekker and Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten	Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
	Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING

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MAIL STOP REISSUE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CONSENT OF ASSIGNEE WITH OFFER TO SURRENDER PATENT**

Sir:

Hunter Douglas Industries B.V., assignee of the entire interest in U.S. Patent No. 6,422,288, entitled VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING, issued on 23 July 2002, hereby consents to the Application for Reissue of this Patent, based on the accompanying specification and claims.

Hunter Douglas Industries B.V. hereby offers to surrender the original Letters Patent No. 6,422,288.

Filed herewith is a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b).

**Declaration**

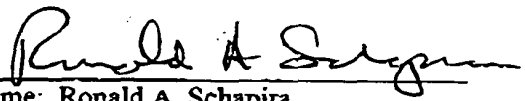
The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under

Express Mail Label No. EV 156 969 986 US  
Attorney Docket No. 1453/US/2

Title 18, United States Code, § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

HUNTER DOUGLAS INDUSTRIES B.V.

Dated: 18 July 2003

  
Name: Ronald A. Schapira  
Title: Director

Express Mail Label No. EV 156 969 986 US  
Attorney Docket No. 1453/US/2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Reissue Application of  
U.S. Patent No. 6,422,288

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Inventors: Nicolaas Dekker and  
Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: VENETIAN BLIND WITH VARIABLE TILTING

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MAIL STOP REISSUE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 3.71 & 3.73(b) and  
POWER OF ATTORNEY BY ASSIGNEE**

Sir:

As an officer of Hunter Douglas Industries B.V. ("assignee"), a Netherlands corporation, I hereby certify that the assignee is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the patent application identified above by virtue of either:

- A. ☒ An assignment from the inventor of the patent application identified above,  
☒ 1. a copy of which is attached; or  
☐ 2. which is recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at Reel  
\_\_\_\_\_, Frame \_\_\_\_\_, a copy of which is attached.

OR

- B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_  
The document was recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at Reel  
\_\_\_\_\_, Frame \_\_\_\_\_, a copy of which is attached.



Attorney Docket No. 1453/US/2  
Express Mail Label No. EV 156 969 986 US

2. From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_  
The document was recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at  
Reel \_\_\_\_\_, Frame \_\_\_\_\_, or a copy of which is attached.

As assignee of the captioned application, we hereby appoint the registered patent attorney(s) and/or agent(s) of Dorsey & Whitney LLP, associated with USPTO Customer Number 20686, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 3.71, the assignee hereby states that prosecution of the captioned application is to be conducted to the exclusion of the inventors.

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized and empowered to sign this statement on behalf of the assignee.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Dated: 18 July 2003

Signature: Ronald A. Schapira  
Name: Ronald A. Schapira  
Title: Director

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS we,  
**Nicolaas Dekker**, residing at Van Goghlaan 43, 2661SC Bergschenhoek, The Netherlands and  
**Antonius Johannes Josephus Horsten**, residing at Muurbloemweg 77, 2555 NC Den Haag, the Netherlands

(the "Inventors"), are the joint inventors of an invention in *Venetian blind with variable tilting*, for which invention a European patent application with serial number 00201769.7 was filed in the European Patent Office on **19 May 2000**, and we are entitled to assign our entire right, title and interest world-wide in and to the invention and any intellectual property protection for the invention, including the Europe patent application therefor; and

WHEREAS HUNTER DOUGLAS INDUSTRIES BV (the "Company"), having a place of business at Piekstraat 2, 3071 EL Rotterdam, The Netherlands, is desirous of obtaining our entire right, title and interest world-wide in and to the invention and any intellectual property protection for the invention, including the European patent application therefor;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of one Euro ( 1,00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is acknowledged, we hereby sell, assign and transfer to the Company, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, our entire right, title and interest world-wide in and to the invention and all applications for industrial property protection, including, without limitation, all applications for patents, utility models and designs, whether original, divisional, continuation, renewal, reissue, or the like, now on file or subsequently filed, for the invention world-wide, together with the right to file such applications and the right to claim for such applications the priority rights derived from the European patent application under any national or international intellectual property laws or agreements and any industrial property protection including, without limitation, patents, utility models and designs, now or hereafter granted, for the invention world-wide, and any extensions, renewals, reissues or the like thereof.

FURTHER we hereby authorize and request any official of any state, responsible for issuing patents or other evidence or forms of any industrial property protection, to issue the same for the invention to the Company, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, in accordance with this assignment.

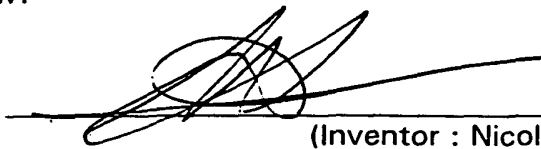
ALSO we hereby agree that we have the full right to convey our entire, right, title and interest in and to the invention world-wide and all applications for industrial property protection for the invention world-wide and that we have not executed, and will not execute, any agreement in conflict with this assignment.

MOREOVER we hereby agree that we will communicate to the Company, its successors, legal representatives and assigns any facts known to us respecting the invention and testify in any legal proceeding, sign any lawful papers, execute any original, divisional, continuation and reissue applications, make any rightful oaths, and generally do everything possible to aid the Company, its successors, legal representatives and assigns to obtain and enforce proper protection for the invention world-wide.

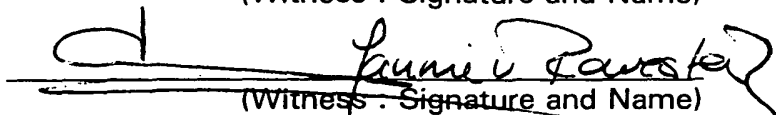
FURTHER we hereby agree that this assignment is to be considered effective as of the filing date of the above mentioned patent application.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands the day, month and year opposite our signatures below.

25/3/01  
(Date and Place)

  
(Inventor : Nicolaas Dekker)

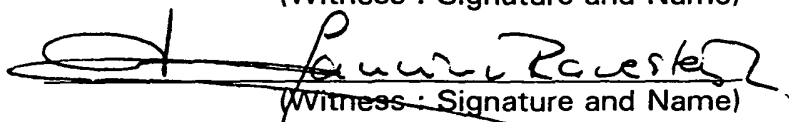
Nathalie ML Horward  
(Witness : Signature and Name)

  
(Witness : Signature and Name)

25/03/01  
(Date and Place)

  
(Inventor : Antonius J.J. Horsten)

Nathalie ML Horward  
(Witness : Signature and Name)

  
(Witness : Signature and Name)

THE COMPANY hereby acknowledges the previous statements of the Inventors and accepts their assignment.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Company, by its undersigned Director, sets its hand the day, month and year opposite its signature.

29 March 2001 - Rotterdam Ronald A Schapira  
(Date and Place) Ronald A. Schapira  
Director of HUNTER DOUGLAS INDUSTRIES B.V.

Nathalie ML Horward  
(Witness : Signature and Name)

[Signature] Pammi van Renswoude  
(Witness : Signature and Name)